

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

The title of the invention has been objected to as not being descriptive of the claimed invention. The title of the invention has now been amended so as to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make a number of editorial revisions. A substitute specification and abstract have been prepared and are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added. Enclosed is a marked-up copy of the specification and abstract indicating the changes incorporated therein.

The drawings have been objected to as not illustrating the back focus f1 and the back focus f2. Further, Figure 3 has been objected to as not being labeled as prior art. Replacement Figures 1 and 3 are submitted herewith to address these matters. Figure 1 has been amended so as to illustrate the back focus f1 and the back focus f2. Figure 3 has been amended so as to be labeled as “Prior Art”. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the rejection indicates the claim 1 is indefinite for using the term “close,” claim 2 is indefinite for using the term “parallel,” which is inconsistent with what is recited in claim 3, and claim 5 is indefinite for using the term “high.”

Claim 1 has been amended so as to include limitations similar to those of claims 2 and 3. Further, claims 1 and 5 have been amended to address the above-mentioned specifics of the indefiniteness rejection. As a result, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sakai (US 6,388,977). Claims 1, 2 and 4-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Maruyama (US 6,344,935).

Claim 3 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

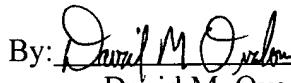
In order to expedite prosecution of the application, claim 1 has been amended so as to include limitations similar to those of allowable claim 3 and claim 2, as discussed above. Further, claims 2-4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. As a result, only allowable claims 1 and 5-11 remain pending.

In addition, claims 1 and 5-11 have been amended to make a number of editorial revisions. These revisions have been made to place the claims in better U.S. form. None of these amendments have been made to narrow the scope of protection of the claims, nor to address issues related to patentability and therefore, these amendments should not be construed as limiting the scope of equivalents of the claimed features offered by the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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